

Application Serial No: 10/089,399
Responsive to the Office Action mailed on: October 3, 2007

IN THE CLAIMS

Amendments To The Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A liquid homogenizing unit comprising:
 - a cell including a front surface and a back surface opposite to the front surface;
 - a supply flow path and a discharge flow path;
 - a first intermediate flow path which communicates with the supply flow path;
 - a substantially cylindrical second intermediate flow path which communicates with the first intermediate flow path and the discharge flow path;
 - a first cover body disposed on the front surface of the cell; and
 - a second cover body disposed on the back surface of the cell;wherein the supply flow path, the discharge flow path, the first intermediate flow path and the second intermediate flow path are formed integrally in the cell,
 - wherein the first intermediate flow path extends in an intersecting direction relative to the second intermediate flow path,
 - wherein the second intermediate flow path extends rectilinearly through the cell from the front surface to the back surface, the supply flow path being open toward the front surface, the first intermediate flow path comprising a single groove formed in the front surface, the groove connecting the supply flow path and the second intermediate flow path at the front surface, the groove being connected to the second intermediate flow path at a position that is unaligned with an axis of the second intermediate flow path, the discharge flow path being open toward the back surface and communicating with the second intermediate flow path, the first cover body being arranged to close off the supply flow path, the first intermediate flow path and the second intermediate flow path, the second cover body being arranged to close off the second intermediate flow path and the discharge flow path,

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wherein the first intermediate flow path includes a first portion that is connected to the supply flow path and a second portion that is connected to the second intermediate flow path, the first portion tapering from the supply flow path toward the second portion, and wherein the second portion has a uniform cross section and is connected to the second intermediate flow path at a position that is offset from an axis of the second intermediate flow path.

Claims 2-6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) The liquid homogenizing unit according to claim 1 ~~[[6]]~~, wherein the second portion of the first intermediate flow path extends at right angles to the second intermediate flow path.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Original) The liquid homogenizing unit according to claim 1, wherein the first intermediate flow path has a smaller cross section than the second intermediate flow path.

Claims 10 and 11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) The liquid homogenizing unit according to claim 1, wherein each of the first and second cover bodies has a transparent part that corresponds to at least the second intermediate flow path, and the second intermediate flow path is a measurement flow path for absorbance measurement.

Claims 13-20. (Canceled)